

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 06773 181118Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00  
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 EB-08 CA-01 SCS-06 DLOS-09  
CG-00 DOTE-00 TRSE-00 COME-00 OES-07 ACDA-12  
OMB-01 IO-13 /119 W  
-----056032 181126Z /17

O 181108Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7189  
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI PRIORITY  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY  
AMCONSUL NAHA PRIORITY  
USLO PEKING PRIORITY  
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY  
COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA PRIORITY  
ADD ADDEE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 06773

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PBOR, EFIS, JA, CH  
SUBJECT: CHINESE BOATS REAPPEAR IN SENKAKU WATERS

REF: (A) TOKYO 6687, (B) NAHA 160

1. CHINESE FISHING BOATS HAVE REAPPEARED WITHIN  
JAPANESE-CLAIMED TERRITORIAL WATERS OFF SENKAKU ISLANDS,  
PLUNGING JAPANESE GOVERNMENT ONCE AGAIN INTO STATE OF  
CONSTERNATION. BOATS HAD DEPARTED JAPANESE-CLAIMED  
WATERS APRIL 17 BY 3 P.M., BUT HAD MAINTAINED THEIR  
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PRESENCE 5 TO 7 MILES BEYOND 12-MILE LIMIT (REFTELS).  
BETWEEN 5:30 P.M. AND 9:30 P.M. APRIL 17, HOWEVER, UPWARDS  
OF 20 FISHING VESSELS DRIFTED BACK INTO JAPANESE-CLAIMED  
WATERS, AND THEN OUT AGAIN. AS OF 6:30 A.M. THIS MORNING  
(APRIL 18), 10 CHINESE BOATS WERE ONCE AGAIN WITHIN  
12-MILE ZONE. LATEST REPORT FROM MOFA CHINA DIVISION,  
AS OF 11 A.M., WAS THAT 6 CHINESE BOATS WERE STILL WITHIN

ZONE.

2. FONMIN SONODA, FOLLOWING CABINET MEETING MORNING APRIL 18, TOLD PRESS MOFA HAD MADE UTMOST EFFORTS BOTH IN TOKYO AND PEKING TO GET CHINESE TO WITHDRAW BOATS, AND THAT CHINESE HAD SAID THEY WOULD INVESTIGATE THESE "ACCIDENTAL" INCURSIONS. (EARLIER SONODA HAD COMPLAINED ABOUT CHINESE CONVEYING EXPLANATION THAT FLEET PRESENCE WAS AN ACCIDENT THROUGH UNOFFICIAL RATHER THAN DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS.) SONODA SAID GOJ WOULD NOW WATCH ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN BY PRC GOVERNMENT, AS WELL AS THOSE OF FISHING BOATS. MOFA CHINA DIVISION TOLD US THEY HAD RECEIVED NO INSTRUCTIONS AS YET TO CONTACT CHINESE.

3. COMMENT. YESTERDAY GOJ BREATHED COLLECTIVE SIGH OF RELIEF AT BOATS' DEPARTURE. THEIR RETURN HAS RAISED SO MANY QUESTIONS AS TO CHINESE MOTIVES AND TACTICS THAT GOJ, FOR MOMENT, WILL SIMPLY WATCH AND WAIT. PERHAPS ALACRITY WITH WHICH JAPANESE SEEMED PREPARED TO ACCEPT EXPLANATION AFFAIR WAS AN ACCIDENT CAUSED PRC TO MAKE SURE THERE WAS NO CONFUSION BETWEEN INTENTIONAL AND UNINTENTIONAL ACCIDENTS. ANOTHER INDICATION OF DESIRE TO BELIEVE BEST IS THEORY MAKING ROUNDS THAT FISHING BOAT INCURSION REPRESENTS REGIONAL INITIATIVE (E.G. BY SHANGHAI INTERESTS) NOT ENTIRELY WITHIN PEKING'S CONTROL. MANSFIELD

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REPORTS, TERRITORIAL WATERS VIOLATIONS, SHIP MOVEMENTS, FISHING BOATS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Film Number:** D780165-0758  
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**Review Date:** 09 may 2005  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2926221  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CHINESE BOATS REAPPEAR IN SENKAKU WATERS  
**TAGS:** PBOR, EFIS, JA, CH  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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